

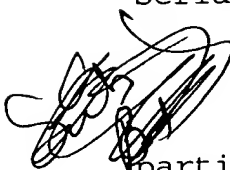
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 11 and amend claims 1-10, 12-17, 19-23, 25 and 26 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A contracting method for making an electronic contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:


~~obtaining~~ storing, in at least one system of one concerned party on said contract, other concerned party on said contract and a third party, description data containing in which a description content presented to from said one concerned party is built or description specifying data for specifying said description content from the other concerned party of said contract before making said contract to said other concerned party and electronic signature on said description content of both or either of said concerned parties before making said contract;

if said contract is made, generating, in both or either system of said concerned parties, contract data containing said description data stored in at least one system of said concerned parties and said third party or said description specifying data for specifying said description content and a contract content; and

 executing, in the respective systems of the concerned parties, respective electronic signatures on said contract data of said concerned parties; and

storing, in at least one system of said concerned parties and said third party, said contract data containing the electronic signatures of said concerned parties.

~~prompting both or either of said concerned parties to write an electronic signature on said contract data.~~


 sub B1 2. (Currently Amended) A contracting method to be used by a covenanter for making a contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:


receiving a question or a request for said commodity or service from a system of a covenantee who intends to conclude said contract through a network;

adding to a response to said question or request, in a system of said covenanter, a covenanter's proof that said covenanter created said response;

sending said response ~~with~~ containing said covenanter's proof ~~added thereto~~ from the system of said covenanter to said covenantee through the network;

storing said response ~~with~~containing said covenanter's proof ~~added thereto~~ in at least one system of storage units of said covenanter, said covenantee, and a third party; and if said contract is concluded between said covenanter and said covenantee, creating, in at least one system of said covenanter, said covenantee and said third party, an electronic contract with which bound to said response ~~with~~containing said covenanter's proof ~~added thereto is made to correspond;~~ and

 storing, in at least one system of said covenanter, said covenantee and said third party, said electronic contract bound to said response containing said covenanter's proof.

 3. (Currently Amended) A contracting method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said response ~~with~~containing said covenanter's proof ~~added thereto~~ includes a covenantee's proof that said covenantee ~~agrees~~has agreed with said response.

4. (Currently Amended) A contracting method to be used by a covenanter for making a contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

after~~if~~ a question or request for said commodity or service is received from a covenantee who intends to conclude

said contract, outputting a response to said question or request to ~~an output unit~~ a system of said covenantee from a system of said covenanter;

~~after obtaining~~ if the system of said covenanter obtains the response with an electronic signature of said covenantee added thereto from the system of said covenanter, concluding, in the system of said covenanter, an electronic contract between said covenanter and said covenantee about said contract;

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making, in the system of said covenanter, said electronic contract document have correspondence relationships to the response ~~correspond~~ with said covenantee's electronic signature added thereto ~~with the electronic contract document on said contract by using the inherent data in a data string~~ determined with regard to said response with said covenantee's electronic signature added thereto; and ~~storing~~ sending said electronic contract document ~~in at least one of storage units of said covenanter and said covenantee or providing said covenantee with said electronic contract document recorded on a recording medium~~ from the system of said covenanter to the system of said covenantee.

5. (Currently Amended) A contracting method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising the step of:
adding, in the system of said covenantor, an electronic signature of said covenantor to the response to be outputted to the ~~output-unit~~system of said covenantee.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a person who accepts a commodity or service with the commodity or service, comprising the steps of:

Q1 sending a question or request for provision of said commodity or service to a provider for said commodity or service through a network;

receiving a response to said question or request from said provider through the network;

Q2 adding an electronic signature of said person who accepts said commodity or service to said response and then sending said response to said provider through the network;

storing said response with the electronic signature of said person who accepts said commodity or service added thereto in at least one of storage units of said provider, said person who accepts said commodity or service and a third party; and

if a contract for provision of said commodity or service is concluded between said provider and said person who accepts said commodity or service, making an electronic contract document on said contract have correspondence relationships to said response with an electronic signature of said person added thereto by using a data string determined with regard to said response with said person's electronic signature added thereto, and storing an said electronic contract document on said contract and said response with the electronic signature of said accepter person added thereto as making said electronic contract document correspond with said response thus having correspondence relationships in at least one system of said provider, said person and said third party.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a contract to be used by at least one of concerned parties who make a contract for provision of a commodity or service and a third party, comprising the steps of:

creating a hash value of description data ~~in~~ which containing a description content about said commodity or service having been transferred between the concerned parties before concluding said contract, ~~and~~ data proving that both

or either of the concerned parties has created or accepted said description content;

~~building~~inserting said hash value in contract data ~~having~~containing said contract content ~~built therein; and~~
storing said contract data containing said description content and said hash value in at least one system of the concerned parties and said third party.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a contract to be used at least one of concerned parties who make a contract for provision of a commodity or service and a third party, comprising:


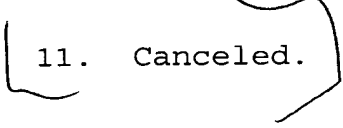
a processing unit for creating ~~inherent data in a data~~
string determined with regard to description data in
~~which~~containing a description content about a commodity or service ~~is built~~and data for providing that both or either of the concerned parties has created or accepted said description content, said description data having been transferred between the concerned parties about said contract before concluding said contract; and


another processing unit for ~~corresponding~~making contract data ~~in which said contract content is built~~have
correspondence relationships with said description data by

using said ~~inherent data~~ data string, said contract data including said contract content.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a contract as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ~~inherent data~~ string is a hash value of said description data.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a contract as claimed in claim 8, wherein said ~~inherent data~~ string is said description data per se.

 11. Canceled. 

 12. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a contract as claimed in claim 8, further comprising another processing unit for ~~corresponding~~ making a description processing program for describing said contract content on an electronic contract document about said contract have correspondence relationships with said contract data.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage unit to be used by at least one of the concerned parties for making a contract for

provision of a commodity or service and a third party, being characterized by said storage unit:

~~storing~~ stores description data ~~in which~~ containing a description content about said commodity or service having been transferred between ~~the~~ concerned parties about ~~said~~ a contract ~~is built~~ before concluding said contract said description data being created in both or either of systems of the concerned parties; and

~~storing~~ if said contract is concluded, stores contract data ~~in which~~ containing said contract content ~~is built~~, said contract data being created in both or either of systems of the concerned parties; and

both or either of the systems of the concerned parties making said description data and said contract data ~~being~~ matched have correspondence relationships to each other by ~~the~~ inherent data in said description data using said data string.

14. (Currently Amended) A program sending device for sending a program for enabling a computer to execute a predetermined process to a network, said predetermined process comprising:

a process ~~or~~ for creating ~~the inherent data~~ string determined with regard to in-description data in

~~which~~containing a description content about a commodity or service having been transferred between ~~the~~ concerned parties about ~~said~~a contract before concluding said contract and data for proving that both or either of the concerned parties has created or accepted said description content, and

a process ~~or~~ for ~~matching~~making contract data in ~~which~~containing a contract content about provision of said commodity or service ~~is built to~~and said description data have correspondence relationships to each other by using said inherent datadata string, and for storing said contract data and said description data thus having correspondence relationships in a storage unit.

15. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a contract processing program for enabling a contract processing system to execute a contract process for processing a contract for provision of a commodity or service, wherein said contract process comprising:

a process for creating contract data ~~in which~~containing said contract content ~~is built~~and a negotiating ID determined between concerned parties on said contract;

a process for retrieving, using said negotiating ID as a key, description data ~~matched~~corresponding to said contract

data from multiple description data in which containing a description content about said commodity or service having been transferred between the concerned parties about said contract ~~is built~~ before concluding said contract;

a process for ~~building inherent data in~~ inserting a data string determined with regard to said retrieved description data in said contract data; and

a process for adding an electronic signature of at least one of said concerned parties to said contract data ~~in which~~ containing said ~~inherent data is built~~ data string.

16. (Currently Amended) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said process for ~~building the inherent data~~ inserting said data string is executed ~~so that~~ to insert said retrieved description data ~~is served as said inherent data when it is built~~ in said contract data as said data string.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said process for ~~building said inherent data~~ inserting said data string is executed to calculate a hash value of said retrieved description data and to ~~build~~ insert

the hash value of said description data in said contract data as said ~~inherent data~~ data string.

18. (Original) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said contracting process includes a process for determining whether or not either of the electronic signatures of said concerned parties added to said description data is correct and a process for adding the electronic signature of the other concerned party to said description data if the electronic signature of one of said concerned parties added to said description data is determined to be correct.

19. (Currently Amended) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said contracting process further includes a process for describing said contract content on an electronic contract document on said contract and a process for ~~building~~ inserting a data string determined with regard to a describing program for executing said describing process in said contract data.

20. (Currently Amended) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said contracting process further includes a process for ~~building~~ inserting a contract content display

template for creating from said contract content a contract content display data to be outputted to an output unit in said contract data.

21. (Currently Amended) A recording medium as claimed in claim 15, wherein said process for ~~writing~~adding a signature on said contract data is executed to ~~write~~add said electronic signature on said contract data if a permission for adding said electronic signature to said contract data is received.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying a content of a contract for provision of a commodity or service comprising the steps of:

if both or either of ~~the~~ concerned parties who concluded ~~the~~a contract for provision of a commodity or service or a third party presents a given contract content, retrieving a description content about said given contract content from a storage unit ~~for managing~~which manages description data and contract data containing contract contents, said description data having the containing description contents about said commodity or service having been transferred between the concerned parties ~~and contract data having said contract content as making said description data correspond with said~~

~~contract data, before concluding said contract~~before
concluding said contract and data for proving that both or
either of the concerned parties has created or accepted said
description data, said description data and said contract data
having correspondence relationships to each other by using a
data string determined with regard to said description data;
and

determining if an electronic signature ~~built~~contained in
said retrieved description data is correct and verifying that
said retrieved description content is presented from one of
said concerned parties to the other when the contract between
said concerned parties is being transferred.

23. (Currently Amended) A contract verifying method as
claimed in claim 22, wherein a hash value of said description
data is compared with a value derived by digitizing said
electronic signature, for determining if said electronic
signature is correct.

24. (Original) A method for electronically transferring a
contract for provision of a commodity or service, comprising
the steps of:

obtaining a describing program for enabling concerned parties with said contract to describe a contract content on an electronic contract document or specifying data for specifying said describing program;

generating contract data containing said describing program or said specifying data; and

writing an electronic signature of both or either of said concerned parties on said contract data.

25. (Currently Amended) A contract processing system to be used by at least one of concerned parties who make a contract for provision of a commodity or service and a third party, comprising:

a processing unit for creating ~~inherent data in a data~~ string determined with regard to a describing program for describing a content of said contract on an electronic contract document; and

another processing unit for ~~corresponding~~ making contract data obtained by describing said contract content on said electronic contract document ~~with~~ and said describing program have correspondence relationships by using ~~inherent data in said programsaid data string.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a contract processing program for allowing a contract process for proceeding a contract for provision of a commodity or service to be executed by a contract processing system, said contract process comprising:

a contract content describing process for describing a content of said contract on an electronic contract document;

a contract data generating process for generating contract data from an electronic contract document in which said contract content is described;

a program ~~inherent data building~~ inserting process for ~~building inherent data in~~ inserting a data string determined with regard to a describing program for executing said contract content describing process; and

a contract data signing process for adding a signature of at least one of concerned parties with said contract to contract data ~~in which said program inherent data is built~~ containing said data string.